

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~judging inflammatory~~ determining an increased risk of arteriosclerotic diseases in humans, which comprises detecting ~~at least one gene polymorphism in the galectin-2 gene in a biological sample obtained from a human subject, said sample comprising nucleic acids from the subject, the presence or absence of a C at position 3279 of SEQ ID NO:1; wherein the presence of a C at position 3279 of SEQ ID NO:1 is indicative of an increased risk of arteriosclerotic disease.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~inflammatory~~ arteriosclerotic disease is myocardial infarction.

5. (Withdrawn) An oligonucleotide that can hybridize to a sequence consisting of at least 10 continuous nucleotides including the nucleotide 3279 in the nucleotide sequence of intron 1 of the galectin-2 gene as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 or a complementary sequence thereof, and that can be used as a probe in the method of claim 1.

6. (Withdrawn) An oligonucleotide that can amplify a sequence consisting of at least 10 continuous nucleotides including the nucleotide 3279 in the nucleotide sequence of intron 1 of the galectin-2 gene as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or a complementary sequence thereof and that can be used as a primer in the method of claim 1.
7. (Withdrawn) The oligonucleotide of claim 6 wherein the primer is a forward and/or reverse primer.
8. (Withdrawn) A diagnostic kit for inflammatory diseases which comprises at least 1 oligonucleotide according to claim 5.
9. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 8 wherein the inflammatory disease is myocardial infarction.
10. (Withdrawn) A method for analyzing the state of galectin-2 expression which comprises detecting the C/T polymorphism at nucleotide 3279 in the nucleotide sequence of intron 1 of the galectin-2 gene as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.
11. (Withdrawn) A method for screening for a therapeutic agent for inflammatory diseases which comprises steps of analyzing the expression level of the galectin-2 or galectin-1 genes in cells in the presence of a candidate substance and selecting a substance that alters such expression level.

12. (Withdrawn) A method for screening for a therapeutic agent for inflammatory diseases which comprises steps of analyzing the expression level of the galectin-2 or galectin-1 genes in cells in the presence of a candidate substance and selecting a substance that increases such expression level.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for screening for a therapeutic agent for inflammatory diseases which comprises steps of assaying the binding between lymphotoxin- α (LTA) and the gene product of galectin-2 or galectin-1 in the presence of a candidate substance and selecting a substance that inhibits such binding.